MAURITIUS DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE TEN-YEAR PLAN

Final Progress Report, July 1, 1946 to June 30, 1955

A—FINANCE

(I) REVENUE

The Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten-Year plan provided for a total estimated revenue of Rs 109,231,600 for the period 1946–56 as shown below :—

	Rs	Rs
(1) Colonial Development and Welfare Funds :—		
Colony's Allocation	24,266,600	
Central Schemes ...	685,000	
Research Schemes	2,240,000	
		27,191,600
(2) Loan Funds		60,500,000
(3) Local Funds (Contribution from General Revenue, subventions and reimbursements)		21,540,000
Total		109,231,600

2. The total revenue receivable to June 30, 1955 was as follows :—

	Rs	Rs
(1) Colonial Development and Welfare Funds :—		
Colony's Allocation	19,855.395	
Central Schemes	397,326	
Research Schemes	2,033.349	
		22,286,070*
(2) Loan Funds		45,725,269
(3) Local Funds (Contribution from General Revenue, subventions and reimbursements)... ...		23 953,016
Total		91,964,355

(II) EXPENDITURE

3. The actual total expenditure in the nine years to the 30th June, 1955 was Rs 84,472,112.10, i.e. 77 per cent of the estimated total expenditure for the ten-year period of the Plan, as shown below :—

Financial Year	*Total Actual Expenditure*	*Sources of Finance*		
		C. D. and W.	*Local Funds*	*Loan Funds*
	Rs c	Rs c	Rs c	Rs c
1946–47	2,204,489 41	279,130 26	789,565 84	1,135,793 31
1947–48	5,141,243 97	1,280,331 96	1,474,124 68	2,386,787 33
1948–49	12,539,247 54†	859,247 00	8,453,028 75	3,226,971 79
1949–50	5,797,699 38	1,140,402 90	1,923,708 55	2,733,587 93
1950–51	7,855,641 33	2,415,747 48	1,360,161 68	4,079,732 17
1951–52	9,379,615 52	3,350,327 06	2,055,051 00	3,974,237 46
1952–53	15.059,503 35	5,005,175 57	2,718,625 67	7,335,702 11
1953–54	16,213.634 62	4,656,976 33	2,672,916 38	8,883,741 91
1954–55	10,281,036 98	3,298,731 70	620,425 24	6,361,880 04
	84,472,112 10	22,286,070 26	22,067,607 79	40,118,434 05

4. More detailed analyses of the actual expenditure to the 30th June, 1955 are shown in Appendix II.

5. It will be noted that the yearly expenditure has risen sharply in recent years as materials and staff have become available and the planning stage of buildings and other works has been passed. (The expenditure for 1948–49 was inflated by a loan of Rs 5,484,378 to the Sugar Industry).

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*The actual total expenditure reimbursed under approved Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes was Rs 20,730,950 and the refund of the balance, Rs 1,555,120, is outstanding.

† Includes Loan of Rs 5,484,378 to the Sugar Industry.

6. Of the the total expenditure of Rs 84,472,112 an amount of Rs 16,964,944 has been relent as shown below :—

Loans to :—	Rs
The Sugar Industry	5,728,908
The Fibre Industry	4,082,036
Non-Agricultural Secondary Industries	760,000
The Municipality of Port Louis (domestic water supply scheme)	825,000
Housing Loans to Urban Local Government Authorities and Co-operative Housing Societies	4,893,000
Education Authorities (secondary schools)	600,000
The Fishing Industry	76,000
TOTAL ...	16,964,944

Direct Government Expenditure thus amounted to Rs 67,507,168.

7. Of this expenditure of Rs 67,507,168 by Government, Rs 22,286,070 has come from grants under approved Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes—i.e. about 33 per cent—and Rs 45,221,098 from local and loan funds—i.e. about 67 per cent.

8. An analysis of the total expenditure (including amounts re-lent) is given in Appendix I. Expenditure on what might be described as social services amounted to Rs 28,203,242 (about 33.4 per cent) and expenditure on economic development and basic services to Rs 52,045,121 (about 61.6 per cent).

9. The original Ten-Year Plan included provision for recurrent expenditure in respect of certain research or other new services, e.g. :—

(1) Sugarcane Research Station
(2) Tobacco Research Station
(3) Phytalus Control
(4) Fisheries
(5) Teachers' Training College
(6) Orthopaedic Centre
(7) Nutrition (including experimental school meals).

The expenditure in respect of these services for the period 1946–50 amounted to Rs 2,817,505. Since 1st July, 1950, their cost has been met from the ordinary budget of the Colony.

10. Similarly when the virtual eradication of malaria was achieved, recurrent expenditure on anti-malarial work was transferred to the ordinary budget of the Colony with effect from 1st July, 1953.

(III) BALANCE IN THE MAURITIUS DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE FUND

11. The balance in the Fund on the 30th June, 1955, including anticipated C.D.W. reimbursements, was :—

	Rs
Total Receipts	91 964,355
Actual Total Expenditure	84,472,112
Balance in Fund	7,492,243

This balance is carried forward into the new plan period.

B—PROGRESS

12. The early years of the Plan (1946–50) have been dealt with in preceding development reports and in departmental reports. Owing to shortages in materials and staff and the inevitable delay between conception and execution, progress was at first slow, but the gathering speed is reflected in the increasing rate of expenditure during period 1950-54 (see paragraph 4).

13. The Departments mainly concerned with the execution of the development programme are : Agriculture, Education, Health, Public Works, Architecture (which was separated from the Public Works Department in 1950) and Forests. Detailed progress is recorded in the annual departmental reports and the broad outlines only are given here, covering the work done and the results achieved under the following main heads : Agriculture, Forests, Health, Public Works, Education and Housing.

Agriculture

14. It is impossible to draw a hard and fast line between the ordinary activities of the Agricultural Department and those financed by development funds. While the recurrent cost of services for sugarcane and tobacco research, phytalus control and fisheries, originally financed from Development and Welfare funds, was returned to the ordinary budget in 1950, it has been found convenient to finance from Development and Welfare funds the cost of new—and perhaps temporary—services aiming at improvement and development of agricultural production.

15. The programme should be seen in relation to the whole economic, demographic and ecological situation of Mauritius. Because of its highly developed sugar industry the Colony supports a density of population comparable with that of an advanced industrial country and one increasing at an alarming rate. Such a population can be fed only by means of an agriculture based on export commodities of relatively high value which can be at least partly processed in the Colony. Attention in the Development Plan has therefore been concentrated on tea and fibre, which meet the economic requirements and fit the ecological conditions, and on perishable and protective foodstuffs, including milk, rather than on the production of bulk carbohydrates or raw industrial crops.

16. The services which have been provided comprise :—

(1) an extended Agricultural Division of the Department for work on crops other than sugar cane, namely tobacco and fibre, the major food and protective crops and fodder crops combined with a reorganized field extension service with ancillary demonstration plots located in the different districts. The division has now assumed responsibility for experimental work on fish farming ;

(2) an Animal Husbandry Service for the improvement of livestock and development of the dairy industry ;

(3) a Tea Development and Research Division under the supervision of an experienced Tea Officer ;

(4) a pilot land settlement scheme ;

(5) provision for biological control work, with special reference to control of the weed bush *Cordia* and some of the major insect pests of the sugarcane. The Cordia bush is now well under control and most of the effort is at present directed towards other pest problems ;

(6) assistance to the local fishing industry.

17. It is not easy to say what should strictly be described as research. No item of the programme consists of basic research but may contain an element of technological research on a pilot scheme scale.

18. Agricultural investigations and research cannot give rapid results, but may be expected to yield long-term dividends For instance, the sugar industry is now reaping the fruits of work started more than twenty years ago. The time lag is particularly marked in the case of permanent crops such as tea and "aloe" and other fibre crops which take several years to come into bearing.

19. Nor can pilot projects themselves create industries ; they can only show the way and serve as the means of attracting the capital and enterprise required for large-scale development.

20. The progress achieved in carrying out the agricultural side of the Development and Welfare progamme is briefly reviewed below.

21. *Agricultural Division.*—So great is the importance of sugar to Mauritius that the limited resources of the Agricultural Department have always to a large extent been concentrated on this crop. In 1948, however, schemes for the extension of the work of the Agricultural Division of the Department and for tea was drawn up. The scheme for the extension of the Agricultural Division comprised the enlargement of three existing experimental stations, the creation of two others, the reorganisation and development of the extension services, the absorption of the Food Production Scheme and of the Field Demonstration Service of the Sugarcane Research Station. Both the Land Settlement Pilot Scheme and the Pilot Hay Making Scheme of Plaisance have been absorbed by the Division.